INDIANAPOLIS, SUNDAY MORNING, JULY 7, 1895-SIXTEEN PAGES.

live, and the great detective system that is continually on the lookout for "I.

government to deal in diamonds, or was

furnished with a like authority as a

digger. The Orange Free State and the

against illicit diamond dealings, but the

colony of Natal, which is opposed to

anything that the Cape desires, wel-

comes the "I. D. B.," and provides him

with a market for his diamonds, with

no question asked as to how or where

To be an "I. D. B." in Cape Colony is

now considered a most despicable of-

fense, though some of the most influen-

money through such dealing ..

tial men of the colony made their

THE YEARLY STEALING.

And yet, notwithstanding the great

caution taken by the company against

the stealing of the stones, diamonds to

the value of about \$500,000 are stolen

annually. Many and ingenious are the

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

THE DEPTHS OF SPACE

A GREAT AUTHORITY WRITES OF

An Attempt to Measure the Distance of the Stars from the Earth, with

By SIR ROBERT BALL

Of all the sciences, there is none which makes such vast demands upon the human imagination as the astronomy. We have to brace our minds to the conception of distances and magnitudes so utterly transcending all ordinary human experience that special means have to be invoked to render them intelligible. Each advance in our knowledge of the heavens reveals to us the grandeur of the celestial spaces on an ever-growing scale.

I propose to give in this paper some gard to the distances of the stars, and I shall naturally take the opportunity to make special use of certain recent advances by which our knowledge of the subject has been greatly extended. First let me say that the task of finding the distance of a star involves the most delicate piece of measurement that has ever been undertaken.

The great majority of the stars are situated at distances so enormous that it is utterly hopeless to attempt to determine how far away they are. In fact, only comparatively few stars happen to mit of our making an accurate determination of their positions. Nor is it by those particular objects which do lie within range. It not infrequently happens that after much labor has been expended on obesrvations of some particular star, it has been found that the work is fruitless, and that the star is so remote that there is no possibility of learning what its distance actually amounts to. Much care must, therefore, be taken to make a judicious selection of the particular star to which it is proposed to devote so much time and labor. It might naturally be supposed that the brightest stars are those nearest to the earth, and no doubt if all the stars were intrinsically equally bright, then, of course, their apparent brightness would be a safe guide in placing these objects at their true relative distances. For in this case the only explanation of the endless varieties of lustre which stars exhibit would be that some of them are much nearer to us than others. But there is no such simple connection between brightness and proximity as this would imply. We know that the very brightest star in the heavens is Sirius, but we also know that Sirius is by no means the nearest neighbor of the solar system. Recent researches have also shown us that the famous star Arcturus, the brightest member of the constellation Dootes, and one of the three or four most beautiful stars visible in our northern skies, is by no means one of the stars comparatively near us. Arcturus has, in fact, been recently shown to be so excessively far off that it must be classed with those stars whose remoteness renders it impossible for us ever to learn what their distance actually amounts to.

ANOTHER METHOD. There is, however, another indication of position which is very frequently acthe vessel seems to change its place but slowly, though we know, as a matter of fact, that it is traveling at the rate of perhaps more than ten miles an hour. The nearer we are to the steamer the more rapidly does it seem to move. In like manner, if a star were animated by what is called proper motion, that is to say, if the star shifted its position on the sky with reference to the other stars, and if the amount of this shift was unusually great, then there would be a presumption that the star was comparatively near. It will, indeed, be obvious that if all the stars were really traveling at the same speed, those which lie nearest the earth would move over an appreciable part of the sky in a shorter time than those which were more reequal rapidity in space. Indeed, we know well that such is not the case. But, speaking generally, we may fairly argue that if a star does appear to be moving rapidly it is a presumption that that body is one of the sun's nearest

The star whose distance is to be sought, having been chosen, an elaborate series of observations has then to be undertaken. The astronomer measures in his telescope the sky interval by which that star is separated from a neighboring star, which, though appar- so remote that, if the news of the discovently close by, is in reality much further ery of America by Columbus had been away. Indeed, for this auxiliary star circulated far and wide through the uniwe like, if possible, to have an object verse, by the instrumentality of the telewhich is about ten times as far as the graph, those thousands of stars to which comparatively new star. It is, however, I now refer are elevated into boundless essential that the two shall lie so nearly in the same direction as to be both visible together in the same telescopic field. By means of a delicate instrument applied to the telescope we measure the take. Let us think of the telegraph wire width of the bit of sky between the two | that is supposed to run from the earth stars, and these measurements are re- to one of those stars which are only peated night after night for a twelve- known to us by the impressions they month. This year's series of observa- make on a photographic plate. It seems tions is absolutely necessary, for the certain that many of these stars are so astronomer is gradually shifting his po- remote that if the glad tidings of the sition, and in six months' time this shift | first Christmas at Bethlehem, 1,894 years will amount to nearly 200,000,000 miles, ago, had been disseminated through the the earth having moved during this pe- universe by the swiftest electric current riod round to the opposite point of its ever known-yet these stars are so inorbit. The displacement of the observer | conceivably remote that all the seconds alters the position of the near star in | which have elapsed in the 1,894 years of relation to its more distant companion. our present era would not have sufficed We thus find that the sky interval be- for the journey. tween the two objects changes periodically, and from observations such as doubt these facts, and, of course, to these it is possible, by the magic of doubt wisely is a most wholesome attimathematics, to determine the distances | tude to take with respect to all scientific

So far as astronomers have yet should entertain any misgivings as to learned, the star which lies closest to the reality of these stellar distances, the earth is one which we do not know | then there is one consideration which I in the Northern hemisphere, though it specially commend to his notice. Reis very familiar to residents in southern member that space seems to us to be latitudes. This star is the brightest gem in the constellation of the Centaur, and, ceive no limits. There must, it would according to the usual mode of designation, it is spoken of as Alpha Centauri. times, or, indeed, millions of times The telescope shows the object to consist of a pair of magnificent suns slowly spoken. We can conceive of no boundrevolving each around the other, and ary; for, even if that celestial vault of animated by movements in the same direction through the sky. Many attempts have been made to determine the distance from us of this celebrated pair of | thought we could start afresh and on objects. Its distance has been measured and on indefinitely. And, seeing that by Dr. Gill, her Majesty's astronomer, at the Cape of Good Hope, and by Dr. Elkin, of Yale Observatory, New Haven, distances I have named, or at distances with all the accuracy which modern

NOT MEASURED IN MILES. I do not here propose to state the discourse, a value in their proper place. heavens would have appeared an abso-Instead of repeating such figures, I shall lute void, instead of presenting that endeavor to translate them into ideas glorious spectacle which now makes our ture of the believes the blocks and whenever the blocks and whenever the blocks and whenever the blocks and whenever the blocks and the books not be. are the compounds where the negroes evidence then will the books not be.

reclation of the magnitude involved. he electric telegraph will supply ar

KIMBERLEY DIAMONDS

UNDERGROUND TRIP THROUGH THE FAMOUS AFRICAN MINES.

unless he had a license from the Cape Piles of Precious Ore Which Ar Closely Guarded Night and Day-Schemes for Stealing Stones. Transvaal Republic also passed laws

San Francisco Chronicle.

Gardner Williams-a Californian to the backbone of him-is, odd though it may seem, the managing director of the greatest diamond mines in the world. As far ahead as any man with ordinary eyes can see, the Kimberley diggings in South Africa will continue to be the

chief producer of the gem of gems. The methods of 1880-81 in the Kimberley fields have passed away entirely. The individual claims have all been amalgamated under the title of the De Beers Diamond and Mining Company, with Cecil Rhodes, Premier of Cape Colony, as chairman, and Mr. Williams as general manager.

Mr. Williams was born, in 1842, at Saginaw, Mich. His parents came to California while he was a mere lad, and he received his education here, graduatat the California College, now the State University. He is a brother of Mrs. T. C. Van Ness, of this city, and Mrs. E. B. Clement, of Oakland. His interest in California is unaffected by long absence. He has lately sent his two boys all the way from Kimberley to attend the State University at Berkeley.

berley mines as general manager in May, 1887. Before that the mines were in a bad condition. The output of diamonds had materially lessened, shafts and tunnels were caving in, the negroes smuggled out diamonds in large quantities and illicit diamond buyers-known as I. D. B.'s-plied their trade with impunity. It is mainly due to his efforts that the mines have been brought to their present prosperous condition. The company values his services to such an extent that they pay him the princely salary of \$100,000 a year.

Mr. Williams took charge of the Kim-

I arrived at Kimberley early last October. From the moment I stepped out of the depot I was "shadowed" constantly, as is every visitor and many a resident. The place fairly swarms with detectives, who are in the employ of the Cape government, but whose salaries are paid by the De Beers Diamond Com-

Before the mines can be visited a permit must be obtained from either the general manager or the secretary of the company. A special permit is also necessary to visit the underground portion of the mines, this being given by only the general manager. The underground trip is the experience of a lifetime. Upon presenting a special permit and a letter from the general manager at the entrance to the Kimberley mine, I was taken in charge by one of the timekeepers, supplied with a heavy rubber suit and an extra strong pair of rubber shoes. A cup of tea or coffee is always drank before the journey below is attempted. We were placed on an overhead, inclined trolley and whirled rapidly down to the entrance of the old Kimberley shaft. From this we felt our way down the narrow perpendicular ladders of shaft after shaft for a distance of 800 feet. The Kimberley mine is one network of tunneling and timbers. Hundreds of negroes were at work here; were filling the peculiar fron trucks with the blue-ground ore; others were running trucks along to the main shaft, where the contents rattle down a chute to the 1,000-foot level. The negroes, with their flickering candles and shining black bodies, made it seem like some infernal region.

Some of the negroes are lucky enough to find occasional diamonds in the loose dirt, and, upon turning them over, they presented with a bottle of Cape brandy as a reward for their faithfulness-reward enough, seeing that a South African native will do anything for a drink, and everything for a bottle. should a white man find a diamond, and be honest enough to hand it over, he is paid one-tenth of its market value.

A DANGEROUS JOURNEY. The journey from tunnel to tunnel by crude ladders is rather dangerous. from tunnel to tunnel until we reached the 1,000-foot level. Here electric lights the interval between the two ticks of a | the endless wire cable carried along on one track the empty trucks, while on the other it drew the loaded cars to the huge elevator which carried the ore to

This vast system of shafts and tunnels was practically a failure until Manager F. Williams took control. Time and time again the mines had caved in, and the diamondiferous ground was buried so that it had to be sought anew by other workings. Mr. Williams has so remodeled and reconstructed the mines that they are not only safe to work in,

but rarely cave. I was more than glad when the passenger elevator was sent down to take us up. I was hot and tired, my limbs ached, and my rubber suit was dripping with water. About fifteen feet from the top the elevator stopped, and the negroes who were my fellow-passengers submitted to the usual search before they were marched to the "com-

Early the next morning I was taken by Mr. Williams in his carriage over the entire system of the De Beers company. The famous blue-ground flooring was first visited. Miles of this blue ore, in which diamonds are found, are fenced in from the roadway and guarded night and day by men under arms. All the ore from the various mines is laid out here, there being at present over 3,000,-000 loads exposed. The ore is scattered and left exposed to the weather influences for two years, and then it is ready for crushing. The company, however, struck some time ago a vein of hard blue rock which could not be crushed in the ordinary way. Special works for its reduction have been erected, and when they are through with the hand ore already mined the company will probably have secured from it diamonds worth

The ore after being crushed is finally carried to the pulsator, so called from ts peculiar jerking motion, from which the heavier pebbles, the diamonds and the garnets pass into a reservoir. This partially assorted material is taken in ocked trunks to the "finding" room White men examine the large pebbles for diamonds, and native convicts (about two hundred of whom are leased by the company) sort the finer stones. The diamonds found by the convict sorters are generally used for diamond drills and diamond cutting.

To the ordinary person, a diamond in the rough has the appearance of a piece of clear alum. It is remarkable with what rapidity an experienced hand will spot a diamond. Mr. Stewart, who is the chief of the

pulsator and the finding room, allowed me to see the find of that day, and I secured a photograph of the precious heaps. The value of this day's find was estimated at \$50,000 in the rough, or \$150,000 after cutting.

The peculiar and most interesting fea-

A law was passed some few years ago making illicit trading in diamonds a felony. This was rendered more stringent by later enactment, making it a penitentiary offense for any person to have in his possession an uncut diamond

Their Manner of Living and Method of Warfare-Deterioration Through the Use of Intoxicants.

Alice D. Le Plongeon, in New York Post. A Mexican dispatch printed last week announced that the War Department there was making active preparations for another campaign against "the rebellious Yucatan Indians." To most readers this announcement contained little that was of interest. And yet, among native Americans, none have a more heroic record than those of Yucatan. They are descendants of the once powerful Maya people, and are exceedingly interesting for many reasons.

From the year 1542 to 1822 Yucatan was under Spanish rule, and throughout that period the natives were cruelly abused slaves. After that time they were called dependent, and Yucatan agreed to recognize the republican government as its own, provided it was always liberal and the confederacy, with the privilege of forming its own constitution and estabishing such laws as it might deem advantageous for its welfare. Mexico granted this, but failed to abide by the agreement. Consequently, in May, 1839, Yucatan revolted, and the fatal step was taken which led to the war of races. The downtrodden Indians were provided with arms, taught their use, and persuaded by promises of an improvement in their own condition to fight on behalf of their masters. At the end of nine months promises made to the natives were not kept, though the victory was largely due to their valor.

In 1842 civil war broke out in the pen-

insula, and again the Indians were armed and called upon to fight. In that struggle they behaved with such valor, also generously giving the little they possessed in support of the cause, that the periodicals of the capital were loud in their praises, making promises, not one of which was kept. In 1843 Mexico made new treaties with Yucatan. Nonompliance with these caused another rupture and separation in 1846. Mexico had failed to keep her agreements with lucatan, while the authorities had broken all the promises made to their allies, the natives. To make matters worse, a conflict began between the people of Merida and those of Campeche which finally became, and has remained, separate state. As if this were not enough, the people of Valladolid, a city in the east of the peninsula, began to fight among themselves, the aristocrats against the plebeians, the latter being 5,000 strong against a party of 300. The result was a hideous slaughter. Meantime the natives had hoped and waited in vain for any amelioration of their own condition. They were paid laborers, but taxes of church and state absorbed the miserable wages doled out to them, and their backs smarted under the lash. Incited by the carnage and discord surounding them, they planned to strike a plow for liberty. An accident brought the conspiracy to the knowledge of the authorities. The leader of the movement was at once arrrested and shot The man's name was Ay; he was thirty years old, and was universally eseemed for his nobility of character. His son, twelve years old, wept when brought to bid his father farewell, but the condemned man said: "Weep not: there are people here." Ay's execution was the first step in that war of races

HORRIBLE CRUELTY. The authorities and soldiery followed up that execution with a course of diabolical cruelty and injustice, meted out almost indiscriminately to the helpless Indians: neither infancy nor old age were spared. After all, the Mayas were only human, and so they retaliated, although in cruelty they were outdone by their opponents. To-day the best people in Yucatan regret the crimes then committed, and especially in view of the modest demands made by the natives in letters addressed to priests. The following is one extract:

which Mexico now seeks to bring to

"These people would not have uprisen but to defend their lives. If the taxes | se are reduced, they will be pacified. Otherwise, only life or death can decide the question. Let the cost of baptism be 3 reals (the real is 121/2 cents), marriage 10

"(Signed) JOSE JACINTO PAT." The men for whom Pat asked this reluction of fees were receiving only one real for a long day's work.

Battle after battle was fought, and the white troops were so frequently defeated that at last written proposals of peace were sent to the Indian leaders. The reoly was eloquent and defiant, as may e judged by two or three lines:

"Why did you not protect us when Father Herrera put his horse's saddle on one of our people and rode on him and whipped him, wounding his belly with the spurs? You had no pity for us. When you were killing us in the darkness of night at the whipping-post, did you not know that there was a true God? Now you have not the courage to receive the return of your lashes. If we are now killing you, you first showed us the way. * * Twenty-four hours we grant you to give up your weapons. * * * Otherwise, what the white people have done to us we will do to them. Yucatan was reduced to a deplorable tate, lacking means, arms and men Cuba sent generous aid in money and in ammunitions, and in March, 1848, Yucatan appealed for help to Spain, England and the United States; but finally was obliged again to enter the Mexican con-

By the month of May, in that same year, the troops had been forced back to the very gates of the capital. The abandonment of the country was declared by church and state, but there did not exist a piece of clean paper in possession of the government on which to write the proclamation. The leading citizens then induced the bishop and the governor to remain. The public edifices were utilized as shelters for the refugees scaping from the advancing Indians and those who were less badly off shared their food with the homeless wretches The Indians were triumphant, but their condition of body, wounded and emaciated, was frightful.

REGAINED THEIR LANDS. In August, with help from Mexico, the white people began to regain their towns. Inch by inch the natives contested that soil which was strewn with the dead and dying. In November, 1850. four years after the commencement of the struggle, the few Indians who had so dearly won their liberty established a city in the southwest part of the peninand slaughtered many people, ded on an ac

early two-thirds of the soil was again in their power. One Maya clan, called calches, though independent, recognize the Campeche government; they fear the Chan Santa Cruz Indians, having been whipped by them in fair fight. At a place called Tulum, on the coast, there is an-other settlement of Indians who are on riendly terms with those of Chan Santa

The way in which the Indians carry on war is to send out a few hundred men to attack ranch, village, or town at daylight, their purpose being to burn, sack, and to take captives back to their own city, utilizing them to carry the booty. When their own settlements are invaded by white men they fight in ambush in small bands, endeavoring to surround and cut off the retreat of the invaders In this way they have destroyed Mexican troops and taken their cannon. The trading port of the Indians is Bacalar (longitude west from Greenwich 88 degrees 39 minutes, latitude north 18 de-

rees 39 minutes), a town on the west shore of Lake Bacalar, which is fifteen miles long and about twenty miles from the northern frontier of British Honduras. In 1848 the Indians took it after a three days' siege, though it cost them many lives, the place being walled and defended with cannon. They frequently shouted: "Don't waste your shot! We shall take you in the end!" On taking ossession they did not hurt or offen one person-only seized all weapons, al lowing each person to depart with all portable property, and free from all insult or injury. They dwelt in the vacated houses without destroying or appropriating anything. A year later sol liers retook the place by surprise. A secnd time the Indians captured it, and then, to avoid another surprise, destroyed the wall. Now they keep troops of their own on duty at that place. Thither traders come from British Honluras, which is sometimes visited by the Indian chiefs.

PERSONAL TRAITS. The Yucatan Indians, those who are free, as well as those under Mexican control, are always clean and neat,

dressed from throat to ankles in white

eating they are remarkably abstemious. The code of morals is severe. They kill their captives or make them work, but submit none to other indignities. Women are not compelled to marry if they say that they are already wives. They do not kill any captive who has knowledge that can be imparted to them, or a gift that man contribute to their pleasure. All musicians are spared. They now ave among them excellent workmen, even jewelers; also teachers for their public schools, where the young of both sexes are educated. A band of musicians is supplied with instruments from British Honduras. It is well known that an Indian will walk many miles to pay a few cents at the time promised; consequently their credit is good in Balize, where they purchase dry goods, wine, potted meats, cheese, butter, perfumes and other things. No merchant hesitates to give them credit for a few hundollars, but they generally pay From their territory woodcutters obtain much logwood, paying \$300 a year for the privilege and fair protection,

which is faithfully given. In January, 1884, in the presence of the Hon. H. Fowler, then Governor pro tempore of British Honduras, a preliminary agreement was signed by some of the Indian chiefs for the recognition of the Mexican government and the appointment of officials subject to the approval of the Indians. The agreement also provided for the mutual surrender of crim-General Canto, of Yucatan, placed the matter before the federal gov-

ernment. His plan was rejected. The Indians are no longer aggressiv but their present standing deprives the Mexicans of the most fertile part of the peninsula, extensive forests, rich in valuable timber. So that even now the white man's conquest of Yucatan is not complete, though begun 388 years ago, Mexico wishes to exterminate the Chan Santa Cruz Indians, it will be a not very difficult thing to accomplish, for those people have greatly deteriorated both mentally and physically during the last quarter of a century, owing to the excessive use of alcoholic stimu-

JAPANESE LIFE OF GRANT. Some Odd Statements Not Found in Any Other History. In the July Century are printed extracts

from a rare and curious Japanese "Life of

General Grant." The following are pass-

ages found in it: From the time of his birth he was dif ferent from an ordinary baby. His body was large. He weighed I kwan 292 me. As he grew his thought became deeper accordingly. It was seen by the eye of every man. He showed no color of fear, however great the sound that came into his ear.
When he was not fully two years old his
father, Jesshi Rumito Gurando, happened to carry him outside of his house, and some bad young men in the neighborhood, hear that this baby, as people say, has a immense fob chain dangled from the brave heart, and never fears anything; we will try whether this is true or false. they went away and got a pistol, and gave t to the hand of Gurando Kuen, and pulled the trigger. Then came out a bullet like derstorm. The baby was not afraid of it, and never changed the color of his face, but, pointing to the pistol, asked another shot. The father, as well as the bad boys, was astonished, and there was no one who did not roll his tongue. A year and a half later a circus rider en tered his village. Desiring to see the show

Gurando Kuen, on his father's farm, en tered the place. Pointing to the horse, he insisted on riding it himself. His father consequently asked the circus rider to let his boy ride. Gurando Kuen, showing in his face perfect satisfaction, rode on the neck of the horse, and appeared as if he were persuading the horse to go. One day, when he was older, he was playing ball by his own house, and he accidentally broke a glass window of his neighbor. Having regretted what he had done, he made up his aind, and went into the neighbor's, house and excused himself to the lord of the house, saying: "I accidentally broke the window of thy honorable house. I have no word to excuse miself. The only thing I can do is to my father tell, a new glass window buy, this loss repay. Please ex-cuse." This house lord, having been much leased with this child's unusual thought liness, without any condition excused his sin. Indeed, Gurando Kuen's heavenly nature is like a serpent, which has its own nature when it is I inch long. In the spring of his seventeenth year he expressed a great thought to his father, an addressed him, saying: "I have in my min the thought that, when four years from a strange thing, said: "Do you hate your father's hereditary trade? Do you hate to

this day have passed, I shall not be doing this kind of labor." The father, thinking i become a leather maker, and spend your life thus? What profession, then, do you expect to adopt in future? Do you expect to go into the fields, carrying a sickle and a hoe? Do you expect to sell and buy things in the market? Or do you fix your eyeballs upon books of 10,000 volumes, and esire to speculate reasons and pr noralities, and become a man of wide knowledge?" Gurando Kuen, replying estions, said: "To cultivate the field and become a farmer is well, but to spend the whole life as a hireling is not well. To take a Soroban (counting machine) well. To take a Soroban (counting machin and become a merchant and gain profit well, but along with it to make bad practice is not my desire. Contrary to all this of this country, showed great merit, I he also, entering a military school, will have to show my arm in the time of great things.

O Father Kuen, how is it?" The father,
being exceedingly glad, did as he wished.

Mrs. James Brown Potter.

Of course, as far as Mrs. Potter is co sted. She has voluntarily lost her sociation years ago, and she is now to only on her histrionic merits. Sher back on society to go on the She is happy and society is hap ocial comment. A lew interpretation alled on her and she gave a tea, I believe the suit her guests were more or less take the free the Bohemian set, rather than free the Bohemian set, rather than free the suit of the suit ent. A few friends this wi

JOHN BUZZARD'S FIND

STRANGE STORY OF A TEXAS CROE-SUS WHO LIVED ON THE BRAZOS.

How He Found Unlimited Wealth and How He Spent It-Disappearance of Himself and Family.

San Antonio (Tex.) Letter in St. Louis

Between twenty-five and thirty years ago travelers passing along the old San Augustine road frequently stopped at a little log cabin, not far from the Brazos river, to get a drink of the only pure cold water that could be found for many miles along the famous old highway. The well was very deep and was walled with brick and a kind of stone not found anywhere in that region. It supplied an abundance of cold water, very refreshing to the thirsty traveler, whose lips had been parched by the hot malarial winds of the Brazos bottoms and the heat and dust of the plains. John Buzzard, his wife and two children lived in the little cabin. They were very poor people, getting a scant living from the cultivation of a little patch of five or six acres of rich Brazos bottom land and the yearly crop of calves produced by a half dozen Mexican cows. Buzzard appeared to be a very clever man, who was as proud of his fine well of water as if it were worth a million. He never failed to tell travelers that he found the well dug, and walled and full of pure water when he settled there, many years before. This would cause people to take a second look at the well and wonder who dug it, and where the brick cotton garments. Their houses, generally having stone walls and thatched came from with which it was walled. roofs, are very sparsely furnished. In Later some earth works were found in the vicinity of the well, and people concluded that the old Spaniards had come up the Brazos river and established a fort there.

> About twenty years ago a man who had frequently traveled the old San Augustine road was very much surprised, while stopping to get a drink of water, to find his old acquaintance, Mr. Buzzard, hilariously drunk and in a very hospitable humor. The traveler was invited to stake out his horse and come in and "take something." The man was tired, and a little curious, and he accepted the invitation." Here is some old Bourbon, ten years old, cost \$9 a gallon," said Mr. Buzzard, setting out a fat bottle, a sugar bowl and some very pretty glasses. There was new furniture in the little cabin and a carpet on the floor. Mrs. Buzzard and the two children came in dressed in store clothes and eating store candy. The traveler was astonished, but this mental condition was transformed into utter amazement when Mrs. Buzzard threw open a piano and ran her fingers over the keys. Her ideas of music were about on a par with those of an Indian squaw, but she evidently thought she was paralizing the visitor when she rattled away at the keys and sang "Old hay hoss, won't you get out of the wilderness." There was more in store for the traveler. He found a five-hundred-dollar carriage behind the house and a pair of fine Kentucky horses hitched to the yard fence. Urgently solicited by Mr. Buzzard, the traveler stayed for dinner, and was surprised to find the table loaded with fancy candy, baker's pies and cakes jars of jellies and preserves and a half dozen bottles of fine wine. The astonished traveler tried to ascertain from his old acquaintance the source of so much luxury, but Buzzard brought his fist down on the table with so much violence that the dishes and bottles danced, accompanying the belligerent action with a freezing stare that closed the conversation as with an iron door. The traveler went on down to Brenham and told the people that John Buzzard had plundered a caravan, murdered a rich traveler or robbed a railroad train. CREATES A SENSATION.

A few days afterward Buzzard drove into Houston, hauling his wife and two children in the fine carriage, while he, mounted on the driver's seat, held the Buzzard wore a silk hat, and that, with his "claw-hammer coat" and his breeches legs in his boots, made him cut a ridiculous figure. He wore two gold watches. The big chain attached to one passed around his neck, while an other. Mrs. Buzzard was still more astonishingly arrayed. She wore a silk dress covered with wild flowers, which she had evidently sewed to the garment very recently. A dozen big roses were fastened in her hat and hair. A tiara of sparkling diamonds encircled he forehead, and a string of pearls two or three feet long was wound about her neck. She also had two watches in her belt. The two children, a boy and a girl, the former five or six years of age, and the latter looking little more than half as old, were barefooted and shabbily dressed; nevertheless, each of them carried a gold watch, and the girl had a big gold chain wound about her waist. When Buzzard descended from the carriage he drew out an old sword and buckled it to his side. A big crowd of people, brim full of curiosity, had assembled, and their number increased as the Buzzards went from place to place. They bought everything that struck the fancy of parents or children, never hesitating or grumbling about the price. Two things were ever uppermost in their minds; one was raiment and the other something to eat. Old Buzzard wanted whisky and tobacco; Mrs. Buzzard wanted pie, cake and jam, and the children wanted candy, first, last and always. Here, certainly, was one family that had attained the acme of human felicity. They had found what they wanted, had the money to buy it, and were satisfied. The man and woman could not conceive of any bliss beyond whisky and pie, and the children did not want the moon. People gathered in little groups and talked of cornering old man Buzzard and forcing him to reveal the source of such fabulous wealth. A slight attempt in this direction, accompanied by a few leading questions, suddenly developed the fact that Mr. Buzzard was not the man to be easily cornered. He drew the old rusty sword, and after intimating that he had been "born all along up and down the Mississippi," and that land pirates, Indians wild cats, hurricanes and cyclones had been his playmates, he politely intimated that he would cut off the head of the next man who asked him an uncivil question.

Mrs. Buzzard and the children fell in love with a steamboat that was lying in the bayou, and, as a result, the who family concluded to take a ride. Leaving the horses and carriage at a stable in Houston they embarked on board of a Buffalo bayou steamboat for a little trip down to Galveston. During the night Mr. Buzzard fell in with the river sharks and played poker and lost, according to the captain's story, at least \$25,000. While rounding in at the whart at Galveston Mr. Buszard said he had lighted with the trip, and said that he believed he would buy a steam boat to run on the Brasos, as that fa-

llustration for the purpose. Everyone knows the unparalleled swiftness with which an electric signal peeds its way along a conducting wire. ASTRONOMY IN A POPULAR WAY. The operator presses a key, and instantly an electric flash is transmitted from one end of the country to the other, The merchant on going to his office after breakfast dispatches a message to a place thousands of miles distant, and Electricity as the Basis. easily receives his answer before the morning is over, notwithstanding the inevitable delays incidental to the transmission and the reception of the mes-Lowndean Professor of Astronomy and Geometry, Cambridge, England, former-ly Royal Astronomer of Ireland.

sage. The speed at which the current actually travels is, indeed, so great that very elaborate instruments are required if that speed is to be measured. Only an imperceptible fraction of a second would be occupied in an electric journey across a continent. The actual velocity attained in telegraphic practice varies according to circumstances. The electrician, however, knows that, even when all the circumstances are most favorable the speed of a current along a wire could never exceed 180,000 miles a second. We shall employ this maximum speed as the velocity of electricity in our present il-

Just consider all that this implies. Suppose that a row of telegraph posts 25,000 miles long were erected round the earth at the equator. Suppose that a wire were stretched upon these posts for this circuit of 25,000 miles, and that then another complete circuit was taken with the same wire around the same posts, and then another, and yet another. In fact, let the wire be wound no fewer than seven times completely about this great globe. We should then find that an electric signal sent into the wire at one end would accomplish the seven circuits in one second of time. Provided

with this conception, we can now give sultable illustrations of the results at which astronomers have arrived in their researches on the distances of the stars. Let us suppose that the telegraph lines, instead of being merely confined to the earth, were extended throughout the length and depth of space. Let one wire stretch from the earth to the moon another from the earth to the sun, another from the earth to the nearest bright star, another from the earth to a aint telescopic star, and finally let the wire be stretched all the way from the earth to one of the more distant stars. Let us now see what the very shortest time would be in which a message might be transmitted to each of these several destinations. First, with respect to the Our satellite is, comparatively speaking, so near to us that but little more than a second would be required for a signal to travel thither from the earth. The sun is, however, many times further away than the moon, and the time required for sending a message to the sun would be correspondingly longer. The sun is, indeed, so far that when the key had been pressed down and the electric wave had shot forth along the solar wire to pursue its route at that stupendous speed which would permit it to place | pany. a girdle seven times round this earth in a second, yet eight minutes would have to elapse ere the electric wave, notwithstanding its unparalleled velocity, had passed from the earth to the sun. An answer sent back from the sun would require another eight minutes for the return journey, so that, if there were no undue delay in the solar postoffice, we might expect a reply within half an hour

or so after the original message had been dispatched. Telegraphing to the stars would, however, be a much more tedious matter. Take first the case of the very nearest of those twinkling points of light, namely, Alpha Centauri, to which I have already referred. The transmission of a telegraphic message to this distant sun would, indeed, tax the patience of all concerned. The key is pressed down, the circuit is complete, the message bounds off on its journey; it wings its way along the wire with that velocity sufficient to carry it 180,000 miles in a single second of time. Even the nearest of the stars s, however, sunk into space to a distance so overwhelming that the time required for the journey is not a question of seconds, or of minutes, not of hours, not of days, not of weeks, nor even of months-for no less than four years would have to pass before the electricity trembling along the wire with its unapproachable speed had accomplished this

stupendous journey INCOMPREHENSIBLE DISTANCES.

Alpha Centauri is, however, merely the are more remote. Look up to-night towards the heavens, and among the thousands of twinkling points which delight our eyes there is many a one up there so far off that if, after the battle of Waterloo had been won, in 1815, the Duke of Wellington had telegraphed the news to these stellar depths the message would not yet have been received there. notwithstanding the fact that for eighty | abounded. It was all excitement. Zulus, years it has been flashing along with Kaffirs and Bosutos were running to lightning velocity which would assume that the stars are moving with carry it seven times round the earth in

> There are stars further still. Fortify your eyes with a telescope and direct it towards the sky. Myriads of stars will | the surface. then be revealed which would not be discerned without its aid. Nor need we feel surprised that the effulgence of glorious suns as these spheres undoubtedly are should shrink to such inconsiderable proportions when we think of the awful remoteness of these bodies. Over our heads there are thousands of stars space to altitudes so stupendous that the

announcement would not yet have reached them. And we have still one more step to

Some there are who may be inclined to work. But if any reader of these lines boundless, for our imagination can conseem, be depths of space thousands of greater than those of which I have crystal existed which the ancients supposed our imaginations could pierce through it to the other side, and then in space seems to us to be infinite, what wonder is it if the stars should lie at the millions of times greater still. Indeed, I would rather say that we have good reason to feel thankful that so many of the stars have come so near to us as to allow of their being glimpsed by our eyes, or caught on our photographic plates. There is ample room to permit be written down, and they have, of of their retreat so far into space that the

THEIR STRUGGLE FOR INDEPEND ENCE MAKES A HEROIC RECORD.

schemes invented to steal diamonds. Some of the company's experiences can best be told in the words of the general free citizens. In 1822 Mexico became in-"We had a night watchman at the oulsator," said Mr. Williams, "who had been with the company for years. had perfect confidence in him, but it Yucatan was regarded as a free state in turned out that when he went on duty at 6 o'clock in the evening he used to go into the finding rooms-he had keys to all parts of the pulsator-and search the ground left on the finding table. This he kept up for months. He came one day and asked for a two weeks' vacation. This was granted, but, somehow, our detectives had become suspicious of him. He was followed to Natal, where he sold some fine stones for the sum of \$25,000. He sent \$5,000 to his mother in Germany and the rest he banked. While he remained in Natal we could do nothing to him, but he had the impudence to march back to the office and report for duty again. He was tried and sentenced to ten years at | Yucatan was independent. But the hard labor. We got the money which he

"There was another case in which a confidential clerk of this office appropriated diamonds to the value of \$40,000. it was his duty to accompany the directors and any heads of departments to the diamond room. The diamonds found at the pulsator are weighed daily, an inventory is taken of them, and then they are brought to the office buildings deposited in the diamond vault. This fellow used to pick up a fine stone during the process of weighing, and if he had not been careless nobody would

have suspected him. "One day he let drop a snuff box, in which he kept loose diamonds. He is now repenting his folly on the breakwater, at Cape Town.'

The detective system of Kimberley is the most rigid in the world. Should any person find a loose, uncut diamond in the streets of Kimberley it must be reported at once to the detective depart-

The diamond is then registered by a process of weighing, noting the tint and taking its measurement. The finder's address is also recorded. At certain intervals these diamonds are sold at auction, the finder receiving half of the proceeds

There is another system which has received a great deal of criticism, viz., "the trapping system." One of the detectives in disguise or a trusted negro will approach a person who is suspected of being a diamond dealer and offer to sell him a stone. He proceeds somewhat after this tashion:

"Say, pard"-if it is a white man who is doing the selling-"I've got a fine stone here; got it yesterday from a Kafir. What is it worth? You can dispose of it to advantage, while I would have to keep and perhaps be robbed. Come, what will you give for it? Is it worth £50?"

Should the person addressed be foolish enough to buy it, he is arrested on the spot, and will probably receive a sentence of from five to ten years for his pains.

WORSE THAN SLAVERY. The compound system, where the negroes are quartered, is the sight of a lifetime. In the old days the negro laborer used to live anywhere he pleased and could smuggle diamonds to his heart's satisfaction. But this condition of things could not be permitted to continue unchecked, and the precautions taken have greatly diminished the evil. All the natives are hired for a term of three months. During this time they must remain at the compound. They are permitted to have no intercourse with the outside world. The company sells them their groceries in the com-

pound. Wood and medical attendance and fro, singing their peculiar songs; are given free. Liquor is prohibitedexcepting where the company may give a small bottle of brandy to one of them for finding a diamond. The various tribes are kept apart. Each compound has a fine netting over the entire ground. This is to prevent the Kafir from throwing any diamonds he may have stolen over the inclosure to accomplices. When their three

months' service is completed they are

compelled to remain in the compound for three days longer. The main thing that the attendants at compound have to be constantly on the lookout for is the swallowing of diamonds by the natives. About a week before my visit to Kimberley a Basuto swallowed twenty-one diamonds, of an aggregate weight of 138 carats, and valued at \$5,095. The natives are very cunning. One of them was known to have taken \$15,000 worth of diamonds before he was caught. He would nearly complete his term of three months' service when it would invariably become necessary to send him to the hospital to be treated for an abscess. The fellow used to poison himself to bring on these abscesses, and when they were lanced he would secrete the diamonds in the cav-

The De Beers company sells all its output at the Kimberley office. The smallest package sold is valued at \$100, 000. The buyer is not allowed to select the stones of his choice, but must take them, large and small, as they are contained in the package. He gives his order to the chief of the diamond sorting room, who goes to the big vault, which is guarded by three heavy iron gates with a sentinel stationed at each gate The diamonds, of which there is a stock valued at \$2,000,000 always on hand, are kept in an ordinary bucket. After the purchase the stones are taken to a sortng room, where they are separated according to size and color. The output of the De Beers company for 1894 was sold last January for \$17,500,000. The white workmen live at Kenil

worth, which was built by the De Beers The Bicycle Vs. the Book Store. New York Evening Sun.

There has been a tremendous falling off in the book trade of Paris of late. They call it a "crache de livres." The failure been so widespread and so co as to have been a veritable literary crisis.

The Parisian appears to not only have stopped buying books, but to have stopped reading them. There is absolutely no call for literature of any kind. The booksellers, not to speak of authors, are in despair. A french writer very reasonably attributes the "crache" to the bicycle. In Paris, unlike New York, where only a proportion of the populace ride, everybody is a wheelman. The entire city is given up to it. And the man or woman who rides the bicycle has little time for anything else.

Such leisure, moreover, as he may have at the end of a long spin is not likely to be devoted to reading. evoted to reading.
The bicycle and books are distinctly at

sula, thirty-six miles west of Ascension pay. They called it Chan Santa Cruz little holy cross). After a few months Mexican troops made their way there ich, during thirty years, the native